

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-73. (Canceled)

74. (Previously presented): A fully automated method of facilitating an electronic auction between a prospective buyer and a plurality of prospective sellers with near perfect information, comprising the steps of:

- a) inputting into a computer a buyer's request for an offer;
- b) communicating the request for an offer to at least two of the sellers;
- c) receiving offers, including terms of sale in response to the request for an offer, from at least two of the sellers;
- d) automatically generating rating information about seller offers based on a plurality of predetermined criteria;
- e) communicating information regarding at least some of the seller offers to at least one other seller;
- f) receiving an adjusted offer from at least one of the sellers during a specified auction period; and
- g) communicating information regarding at least some of the seller offers and at least part of the rating information to the buyer, wherein a software process initiates the communicating of seller offers and rating information to the buyer when a buyer-specified event occurs.

75. (Original): The method of claim 74, wherein the buyer-specified event is the receipt of a seller offer with a rating above a buyer-specified rating level.

76-116. (Canceled)